

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **ARCHAEOLOGIST TO GIVE TALK ON SOUTH BRISTOL'S "GHOST TOWN" OF FROST TOWN**

The director of an ambitious archaeological research project investigating a local "ghost town" that was one of the region's earliest industrial logging communities will give a public update on what researchers have found so far and what plans they have for 2022.

Dr. Alexander J. Smith, of SUNY Brockport, will give his talk at The Rochester Museum & Science Center's Cumming Nature Center (CNC), 6472 Gulick Road, Naples, on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Bristol Hills Historical Society, is open to the public and free.

CNC is a natural location for the talk, considering that the remnants of what was known as Frost Town, or West Bristol, can be found on and around the CNC grounds on Gulick Road and Frost Hill Road, northwest of Naples.

Frost Town, Smith said, was believed to be the first or one of the first industrial logging villages established in Western New York and the Finger Lakes region. Founded in 1790, Frost Town sawmills turned the area's old-growth forest into logs that could be transferred to Naples, Honeoye Lake and Canandaigua Lake for transport to markets beyond this region. Much of Frost Town was abandoned by the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as logging gave way to agriculture.

Frost Town has been the subject of archaeological digs since at least 2012, and of historical studies since the 1970s, when the CNC was first built. But, in 2019, Smith and the CNC formed Frost Town Archaeology as a research project to bring order to the various research efforts and to involve students in the project, both college students from Brockport and youth as young as 10 years old participating in summer archaeology camps from CNC and the Rochester Museum & Science Center.

"What makes Frost Town interesting is that it represents a type of Upstate or Western New York ghost town, which was witness to the rise and fall of various industries in the area," Smith said. "This talk will go into detail regarding the research goals of Frost Town Archaeology and the two buildings we have partially excavated thus far."

Details about the project can be found at [frosttownarchaeology.com](http://frosttownarchaeology.com), including a detailed report on the 2019 season, before the pandemic delayed some of the project's work.

CNC is a 900-acre preserve and environmental education center between Canandaigua and Honeoye Lakes that is part of the Rochester Museum & Science Center. It can be found on the web at [rmsc.org/cumming-nature-center/nature-center-programs-and-events](http://rmsc.org/cumming-nature-center/nature-center-programs-and-events).

The Bristol Hills Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that was formed in 2020 through the merger of the historical societies of Bristol and South Bristol, N.Y. It cares for two of the region's

most distinctive historic buildings, the 1923 Grange Hall in Bristol Springs, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the 1846 Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol Center. The society's website at [bristolhillshistory.org](http://bristolhillshistory.org) and Facebook page at [facebook.com/bhhistorical](https://facebook.com/bhhistorical) provide calendars of upcoming history presentations and other events, articles on local history, and a convenient way to become an annual donor at levels starting at \$15 for individuals and \$30 for families.

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